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STATINTL

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Lie Detectors in the CIA

By dint of overriding Governor Peabody's veto, the Legislature has succeeded in denying all use of a lie detector by employers, even though its use may protect innocent employees from unjust suspicion or permit a business to deal with seriously damaging crime.

What has been the practice of an "employer" who has had to check on people in the most sensitive "business" of all—the Central Intelligence Agency?

Allen Dulles, former head of the CIA, in his recent work on "The Craft of Intelligence," has written this:

"In my experience, I found the 'lie detector' an

important investigative aid in sizing up employees and almost as valuable in clearing people of suspicious and false charges as it was in providing clues to weaknesses or derelictions."

How much more critical was Mr. Dulles' problem than the ordinary run of such problems in Massachusetts! The discharge of a CIA employee as a security risk is a serious business.

"The best one can do," he said, "is to have the most thorough examination that can be given, and I feel that one should not exclude in the examination, technical aids such as the polygraph."

The Legislature should give a more considered look at the lie detector law next session.